

21. The bottle of claim 15, further comprising a teat shield having an opening, which is push fit on a shoulder forming part of the closure.
22. ~~The bottle of claim 21, in which the shield has in its opening a series of inward projections which engage a complimentary recess in the closure.~~
23. The bottle of claim 15, in which the body is made of a transparent or translucent material and carries at least one series of graduation markings enabling the volume of liquid in the body to be ascertained visually by inspection.
24. The bottle of claim 15, in which the teat is made of a thermoplastic elastomer.
25. The bottle of claim 15, in which the closure and teat are made of dissimilar plastic materials by a two-stage aseptic process, in one stage of which, one component is formed, and in the other stage of which, the other component is formed in such a way that it becomes bonded to the said one component.

Remarks

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2001, the examiner objected to the specification and drawings, rejected claims 1-4, and withdrew claims 5-14 from consideration. The foregoing amendment to the specification and drawings overcomes the objections raised by the examiner. The amendment to the claims cancels claims 5-14, and adds new claims 15-25. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in light of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

New claims 15-25 are directed to embodiments of the invention in which the teat and the closure form an integral unit. The cited references do not disclose or suggest the formation of the teat and closure as integral unit. This structure not only saves costs but, more importantly, maintains sterility of the interior of the bottle and its contents by reducing the

number of components to be handled in assembling the bottle after filling. Furthermore, the teat does not need to be handled separately as it can be attached to the bottle by holding the closure, which again can maintain the sterility of the teat up to the moment it is inserted into a baby's mouth.

No new matter is added by new claims 14-25 because they are fully supported by the text of the application as filed (e.g., page 3, lines 9-14; FIGS. 6-13; and the corresponding description on pages 9-13).

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the basis of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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